

ISLAND COUNTY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS – REGULAR SESSION JANUARY 25, 2012

The Island County Council of Governments met in regular session on January 25, 2012 in the Commissioners' Hearing Room 102B, located at 1 NE 6th St., Coupeville. The meeting was called to order by Chair, Nancy Conard at 9:30 a.m.

Members Present: Nancy Conard, Mayor, Town of Coupeville
Helen Price Johnson, Island County Commissioner
Angie Homola, Island County Commissioner
Kelly Emerson, Island County Commissioner
Larry Kwarsick, Mayor, City of Langley
Curt Gordon, Commissioner, South Whidbey Port District
Benye Weber, Commissioner, Coupeville Port District

Members Absent: Scott Dudley, Mayor, City of Oak Harbor

Also Present: Various community members

Start time of this meeting was revised to 9:30 am due to canceling the discussion with Whidbey Island Parks Rangers Ken Hagemen and Jack Hartt. They had scheduling conflicts come up that prevented them from attending today but they will be rescheduled at a later date.

CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Nancy Conard called the meeting to order and introduced Larry Kwarsick, Mayor of the City of Langley. The other new member Oak Harbor Mayor, Scott Dudley was unable to attend today's meeting but he expects to be at next month's meeting.

ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR FOR 2011

It was moved and seconded to nominate Mayor Nancy Conard as Chair. Motion carried unanimously.

It was moved and seconded to nominate Curt Gordon as Vice-Chair. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes of the December 14, 2011 Special Session as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

SUSTAINABLE WHIDBEY COALITION

Sustainable Whidbey Coalition voucher was distributed. The Sustainable Whidbey Coalition Steering Committee will be meeting later today and will be approving their budget for this year. Mayor Conard will bring a copy to the next meeting. The voucher for Kyle Lancaster is the last payment as independent contractor for Oak Harbor's Whidbey Green Seal. Their goal was to sign up 40 business and they had signed up 48 businesses. They will report back to COG on the program. It was moved and seconded to approve the Sustainable Whidbey Coalition voucher. Motion carried unanimously.

DISCUSSION OF IMPACTS OF BUDGET CUTS TO WHIDBEY ISLAND PARKS

Chair Nancy Conard spoke with Park Ranger Ken Hagemen about the adverse affects budget cuts will have on Whidbey Island's 3 major parks. Park Rangers will be cut from 7 to 2 and they will also eliminate seasonal positions for fall and spring and only have summer seasonal staff. Initial concern of the rangers is maintenance of the Parks but they are additionally concerned that there will be no back up for security. This will put the rangers at a much greater risk and they will need to call ICOM for backup. The rangers were not included in the discussions regarding the cuts and feel there is a disconnect between the people out in the field and the people making the decisions. Commissioner Homola will bring this issue up at the next ICOM meeting to see how we can work together to assist the park rangers for security backup.

Larry Kwarsick suggested bringing back his idea of developing Parks and Recreation Services area an umbrella organization to pull parks activities under one entity with taxing authority. Larry Kwarsick will explore this idea more and bring back to the Council. The Council will also explore other resource ideas such as citizen volunteer groups.

POTENTIAL AGENDA ITEMS FOR COG 2012

- Rural Economic Development Funds (.09 Funds)
The CoG has been a reviewing and recommending body to the County Commissioners for these funds. Last year CoG recommended not opening up the period for taking new applications. The Commissioners were asked if they wanted CoG to review applications that have been revised and they indicated that they would like CoG to review revised applications and give recommendations. The Council approved the City of Langley's request to revise their application and resubmit. Elaine Marlow will update the Council on .09 fund availability at next month's meeting. Ron Nelson of the EDC was working on revising the application process – will follow-up with him to see where he is at. Council agreed to ask all of the recipients to give an annual update possibly at the May meeting.
- LIO for Puget Sound Partnership
Commissioner Homola, Chair of the Island County LIO, will give an update to CoG at a future meeting. A meeting schedule was established for the LIO Executive Committee to meet 3 to 4 times a year beginning in March. This meeting will take place during the time allotted for CoG meeting. The Ports will make an announcement when they have selected the business representative on the TAG. A grant was accepted and Lori Clark will staff the LIO.
- Emergency Preparedness
Not much has been done with this in the last year. Island County has a new staff person in the Department of Emergency Preparedness, Eric Brooks. Chair Nancy Conard suggested that he be invited to a CoG meeting to talk about what he has been doing and that this would also be a good time for each Council Member to update on where they are on emergency preparedness planning and to identify areas where we could work cooperatively. It was also suggested that the Navy and fire districts be invited and that April would be a good time to do this. Eric Brooks will be asked to coordinate this meeting.

- **Affordable Housing**
The County made a decision to revise how homeless housing and affordable housing is handled. The Interlocal was revised and signed by everyone except the City of Oak Harbor who made additional revisions. The revised version was sent around again. The two committees will be combined but still with separate funding. Jackie Henderson will be invited to a future meeting to give an update (once or twice a year). We will also invite representatives from Saratoga, WISH, Opportunity Council and Habitat at a future meeting to update.
- **Senior Services**
Will schedule Senior Services of Island County to give an update at the June meeting (after legislative session).
- **Sustainable Whidbey Coalition**
SWC will be invited to give an update at a future meeting. They received \$10,300 in member contributions and \$5000 from Whidbey Island Bank (Community Giving Program). There is \$5,000 left; another \$8,000 in contribution is expected, with an additional \$5000 requested from Whidbey Island Bank. Britt Conn, current SWC Manager, is leaving and a search for a replacement has begun.
- **Island County Tourism Promotion**
Island County Tourism will be invited to 2 times per year to update CoG.
- **Economic Development Council**
Ron Nelson, Executive Director of EDC, will provide updates 2 times per year.
- **Legislative Update**
Updates 2 times per year – before and after the legislative session. Although only one of the legislators was able to meet with CoG, our legislative priorities were communicated to them. Chair Nancy Conard will invite them back to give an update after the legislative session.
- **Marine Resource Commission**
MRC along with LIO and Water Resources Advisory Committee will be invited together for updates at a future CoG meeting perhaps in March. This could also include a project update.

OTHER ITEMS OF MUTUAL INTEREST

City of Coupeville has a new Council Member, Jackie Henderson. At the last City Council meeting she presented on the Veterans Assistance program and Chair Nancy Conard would like to invite her and Keith Higman (IC Health Dept) to a CoG meeting to talk about services offered – all services not just veterans services as it would be helpful to know what we have available.

Chair Nancy Conard will ask the rangers from the State Parks to present at the next CoG meeting.

Commissioner Homola would like to proceed with long range planning and she would like to invite Bob Pederson to update CoG on what the plans are. She will find out what month would be good for Bob.

Commissioner Homola shared her idea of bringing in Oak Harbor and Langley Councils to a CoG meeting to present on what they are doing and also to visit the offices of the County to improve the relationship between County and cities i.e. County "Open House".

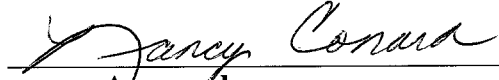
Commissioner Price Johnson reminded the Council that there is Washington State Ferries meeting tonight in Port Townsend on the reservation system.

MEETING SCHEDULE FOR 2012

Have been meeting on this date from 9:00 am 11:00 am prior to RTPO meeting. It was decided to maintain the same meeting schedule for this year. Sustainable Whidbey Coalition has been meeting at 7:30 am prior to the CoG meeting and will continue.

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

Dated this 22 day of February, 2012.



Approved